

2011 - 2012 Statement of Legislative Intent

Approved

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65	3	A	2

Budget Action Title: Review of Current City funded Shelters by the Human Services Department

Councilmembers: Bagshaw; Burgess; Clark; Licata

Staff Analyst: Traci Ratzliff

Budget Committee Vote:

Date	Result	SB	BH	SC	TR	JG	NL	RC	TB	MO
11/10/2010	Pass 9-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Statement of Legislative Intent:

The City currently funds more than 1,127 or (90%) of the adult shelter beds in the County. However, it is unclear whether the current funding approach is providing the most appropriate services in the most efficient way possible. For example, the current system may not be structured in a way that effectively meets the needs of the range of individuals seeking temporary shelter, including working individuals, couples, single parents with older children, families, victims of domestic violence, and chronic homeless. Although the City has invested in the Safe Harbors Homeless Management Information System, it is not currently deployed in a manner that provides “real time” information about the availability of beds on any given night.

The Human Services Department will be issuing a request for proposal (RFP) process in 2011 to fund shelter operations.

Prior to issuance of the 2011 RFP, the Council requests the Executive to examine the extent to which the City’s current shelters (and system as a whole):

- Are at full occupancy on a month by month basis and the extent to which it is known when or if individual shelters are at full occupancy on a day to day basis;
- Meet(s) the needs of the different homeless populations being served by the shelter system (from working homeless, couples, families, victims of domestic violence, mentally ill/alcohol – drug dependent individuals, chronic homeless) in terms of hours of operation, cleanliness, ability to store personal items, ability of unmarried couples to stay together, etc. and whether models used elsewhere could be implemented to better meet the needs of such populations;
- Are providing the needed services and linkages to move individuals from shelter to housing as required by contracts;
- Should be required to do direct data entry into the Safe Harbors data system and participate in a real time, on line shelter bed reservation system provided as part of the Safe Harbors data system;

- Should be required to participate in at least quarterly meetings of other shelter operators to facilitate better communication and coordination among such providers; and
- Are operating consistent with best practices nationally.

Based on the findings of this work, HSD should recommend possible changes to the criteria for shelter services that would be funded in 2011 RFP. These recommendations should be provided to the City Council before issuance of the RFP.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Housing, Human Services, Health, & Culture

Date Due to Council: April 1, 2011